## MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 21, 2001

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## SECRETARY OF STATE CERTIFIES PETITIONS TO REFER PRIVACY ACT

**Bismarck, N.D.** - Earlier today, this office completed its review of the petitions proposing a referral of Senate Bill 2191, relating to the disclosure of financial information by financial institutions and notification of privacy policies.

Our review showed that the petitions contained signatures of qualified electors in excess of the required amount (12,844). Therefore, the submitted referral will be placed on the ballot at the next statewide election scheduled for June 11, 2002, or at a special statewide election called by the Governor, whichever occurs first.

Attached, please find a copy of our letter addressed to Ronald E. Almquist and Charlene Nelson, co-chairman of the sponsoring committee, acknowledging the completion of our review and the approval of the referral. Also included is a brief facts sheet and timeline along with a summary of the signature review process completed by this office.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Lee Ann Oliver in the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's office at (701) 328-4146.

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